

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for overcoating a multicoat color and/or effect paint system, wherein the multicoat color and/or effect paint system comprises at least one color and/or effect basecoat (A) produced from at least one aqueous basecoat material (A) and at least one clearcoat (B) produced from at least one liquid clearcoat material (B), the process comprising:

(1) applying to an outer surface of the multicoat paint system by pneumatic spray application an extract of an aqueous basecoat material, substantially or entirely free from opaque pigments, which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat materials (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting film (1),

(2) flashing off and/or drying the resulting film (1) without curing it completely,

(3) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried film (2) by pneumatic spray application at a spraying pressure less than the pneumatic spray in step (1) with an aqueous basecoat material which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat material (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting aqueous basecoat film (3),

(4) flashing off and/or drying the resulting aqueous basecoat film (3) without curing it completely,

(5) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried aqueous basecoat film (4) with at least one liquid clearcoat material to form at least one resulting clearcoat film, and

(6) jointly curing the at least one resulting clearcoat film (5), the aqueous basecoat film (4) and the film (1), and, where present, any further uncured films that are present.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system was produced by a wet on wet technique.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system was produced by an electrostatic spray application.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the pressure is from 0.3 to 2 bar.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the whole area of the multicoat paint system is overcoated.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system is overcoated at a defect and also in an entire adjacent area up to a boundary.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein prior to step (1) at least one defect in the multicoat paint system is prepared by cleaning and/or abrading.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and its extract or an extract substantially corresponding to it comprise at least one ionically and/or nonionically stabilized polyurethane binder which is saturated, unsaturated, and/or grafted with olefinically unsaturated compounds.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and its extract or an extract substantially corresponding to it further comprise at least one crosslinking agent.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10, wherein the at least one crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of amino resins, blocked polyisocyanates, and tris(alkoxycarbonylamino)triazines.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the extract is completely free from pigments.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the resulting film (1) in step (1) is applied in a total wet film thickness such that curing thereof in step (6) results in a dry film thickness of from 2 to 50 μm .

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the flashing off and/or drying of the resulting film (1) in step (2) and/or of the film (3) in step (4) is/are accelerated by raising the temperature of the films (1) and/or (3), passing a laminar air flow over the films (1) and/or (3), and/or reducing the humidity in the ambient atmosphere.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material in step (5) is applied with a spraying pressure of from 2.5 to 5 bar.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat film applied in step (5) is flashed off prior to curing in step (6).

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material comprises a one-component clearcoat material, a two-component clearcoat material, or a dual-cure clearcoat material.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material corresponds substantially or is identical to the at least one clearcoat material (B) from which the at least one clearcoat (B) of the multicoat paint system was produced.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein
- (i) the one-component clearcoat material comprises one of
 - (a) a hydroxyl-containing binder and a crosslinking agent that is at least one of a blocked polyisocyanate, a tris(alkoxycarbonylamino)triazine, and/or an amino resin, or
 - (b) at least one binder comprising a polymer containing pendant carbamate and/or allophanate groups and a crosslinking agent comprising an amino resin,
 - (ii) the two-component clearcoat materials comprise a hydroxyl-containing binder and a crosslinking agent comprising a polyisocyanate, and
 - (iii) the dual-cure clearcoat materials are one-component clearcoat materials or two-component clearcoat materials which additionally contain functional groups which can be activated with actinic radiation and/or additional constituents containing such functional groups.
21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system is an OEM finish on a motor vehicle.
22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the motor vehicle is an automobile.
23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the process is carried out on a line at an automaker's plant.
24. (New) A process for overcoating a multicoat color and/or effect paint system, wherein the process is carried out on a line at an automaker's plant and wherein the multicoat color and/or effect paint system, which is an OEM finish on a motor vehicle produced by means of electrostatic spray application, comprises at least one color and/or effect basecoat (A) produced from at least one aqueous basecoat material (A) and at least

one clearcoat (B) produced from at least one liquid clearcoat material (B), the process comprising:

(1) applying to an outer surface of the multicoat paint system by pneumatic spray application an extract of an aqueous basecoat material, substantially or entirely free from opaque pigments, which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat materials (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting film (1), wherein the extract is a coating material which comprises the same binder or binders and the same crosslinking agent or agents as the aqueous basecoat material (A), except at lower concentrations than are employed in the aqueous basecoat material (A),

(2) flashing off and/or drying the resulting film (1) without curing it completely,

(3) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried film (2) by pneumatic spray application at a spraying pressure less than the pneumatic spray in step (1) with an aqueous basecoat material which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat material (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting aqueous basecoat film (3),

(4) flashing off and/or drying the resulting aqueous basecoat film (3) without curing it completely,

(5) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried aqueous basecoat film (4) with at least one liquid clearcoat material to form at least one resulting clearcoat film, and

(6) jointly curing the at least one resulting clearcoat film (5), the aqueous basecoat film (4) and the film (1), and, where present, any further uncured films that are present,

wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and its extract or an extract substantially corresponding to it comprise at least one ionically and/or nonionically

stabilized polyurethane binder which is saturated, unsaturated, and/or grafted with olefinically unsaturated compounds, and

wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and its extract or an extract substantially corresponding to it further comprise at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of amino resins, blocked polyisocyanates, and tris(alkoxycarbonylamino)triazines.

25. (New) The process of claim 24, wherein the pneumatic spray application in step (3) is conducted at a spraying pressure of from 0.3 to 1.8 bar, and the pneumatic spray application in step (1) is conducted with a spraying pressure of from 2.5 to 5 bar.